

March 14, 2013

Dear Esteemed Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Summ and I am a resident of Newtown, CT. I have children who attend school in Newtown and I am also a teacher. Like so many in Newtown, in our state, across the country and around the world, I have reflected time and time again over how it was possible for the shooting tragedy that occurred on 12/14 to take place. It continues to be unbelievable that 20 children and 6 adults were murdered at an elementary school that day.

I am writing today to support common sense change in our state gun laws. I am not advocating that we eliminate a person's right to own a gun, I am merely stating that in light of recent events we need to work together to come up with a solution that will save lives and ensure that guns are used safely and responsibly. Although Connecticut's current gun laws are considered to be some of the most stringent in the nation, the shooting event that occurred on 12/14 clearly indicates that the laws we have are outdated.

I applaud our legislators for being so proactive in recognizing the need to expedite the process for change. I appreciate the time and effort put into the bills proposed to address this issue.

To that end, I support legislation that proposes to:

Protect the public safety by limiting the possession of high capacity assault weapons and ammunition to police, members of the armed forces, and residents who belong to a shooting club that agrees to monitor its members' use of assault weapons and magazines.

Enact comprehensive controls on the possession and purchase of firearms, assault weapons and ammunition.

Reduce the use of long guns in the perpetration of crime by imposing the same requirements that apply to the purchase or receipt of pistols and revolvers on the purchase and receipt of long guns and long gun ammunition.

Require registration of all firearms.

Reduce illegal handgun use by requiring a person to hold a valid permit to carry a pistol or revolver or eligibility certificate in order to purchase handgun ammunition.

Strengthen the state's firearm permitting process by requiring a more comprehensive mental health background check for individuals seeking a pistol or revolver certificate or permit.

Establish requirements for the purchase of long guns and ammunition, the issuance and renewal of firearm certificates and permits and the safe storage of firearms, and make certain gun offenders ineligible for early release or parole.

Ensure that criminal background checks are conducted prior to the delivery or sale of firearms.

Require the completion of fingerprinting and criminal background check prior to the sale, delivery or transfer of any long gun.

Provide specific civil and criminal liability for property damage or personal injury that results from failure to report a lost or stolen assault weapon or other firearm or illegal transfer of an assault weapon or other firearm.

Please consider enacting gun laws that will have a positive impact on the quality of life of citizens in the state of Connecticut.

Respectfully Submitted,

Catherine Summ
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